

## **BAYOU POINTE-AU-CHIEN**

**LOCATION** Upper portion of coastal zone on the west side of Bayou Lafourche. Discrete boundaries include Louisiana 24 on the north and Bayou Pointe-au-Chien on the west and southwest. The eastern boundary is contiguous with the Bully Camp EMU and the Raccourci EMU

**SOILS:** Along the Bayou Pointe-au-Chien natural ridge, soils range from Commerce-Moon Association soils to swamp soils. Commerce-Moon Association soils are found adjacent to the upper portion of Bayou Pointe-au-Chien and Bayou Blue. These soils are gray silt loam surface soils underlain by gray silty clay loam. Sharkey-Tunica Association soils are gray clayey soils underlain by gray clay subsoils. These soils are found next to Commerce-Moon soils along Bayou Pointe-au-Chien and along Highway 24 and Bayou Blue. Swamp soils, organic surfaces underlain by gray clay, are found in a narrow band from the lower portion of Bayou Pointe-au-Chien and Bayou Blue, where the swamp spreads out along Highway 24. The rest of the land in this study unit is mostly freshwater marshland. These soils are organic materials underlain by gray silty clay or clay. When flooded, the organic layer will separate from the clay and float.

**VEGETATION:** Vegetation along the Bayou Pointe-au-Chien and Bayou Blue ridges is alluvial hardwoods (oak) grading into swamp (tupelogum, cypress) vegetation. Fresh to brackish marsh plants predominant in the unit between alluvial soils and Grand Bayou.

**SUBSIDENCE POTENTIAL IF DRAINED:** Directly adjacent to the Bayou Blue and Bayou Pointe-au-Chien ridges, subsidence Potential is none: moderate subsidence potential is associated with those areas having swamp soils along the bayou ridges: very high subsidence potential for the freshwater marsh areas.

**LAND LOSS POTENTIAL DUE TO CHANNEL CONSTRICTION:** Land loss potential is low to medium along bayou ridges grading into swamp; high land loss potential for all marsh areas.

**TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES:** The majority of the study unit is low lying marsh areas. Higher natural ridges as high as 5 feet are found along the north western portions of Bayou Blue and Bayou Pointe-au-Chien. A road extends from below Klondyke, along the Terrebonne Lafourche Parish boundary (Bayou Pointe-au-Chien) to the Pointe-au-Chien Community (Highway 665). St. Louis Canal roughly parallels the road at a distance of about 1 to 2 miles, eventually converging with Bayou Pointe-au-Chien. Two large pipeline canals cross the study unit at an angle from the St. Louis Canal to Grand Pavou Canal. Several other location canals cross the unit, notably two large canals enter Grand Bayou.

The Pointe-au-Chien road extends as far as Cut Off Canal. Although the road is technically in Terrebonne Parish, it does provide access to numerous homes and carps on the Lafourche side of Bayou Pointe-au-Chien. Access is provided by several bridges and

unimproved roads deviate from the Pointe-au-Chien road and Highway 24 to oil and gas well locations and to areas used as residential or camp sites.

**FLOODING POTENTIAL:** The majority of the area is flood prone. Land along the higher natural levees have little flood problems and excellent drainage.

**IMPORTANT FARMLANDS:** Soils classified as prime farmland quality are found along the Bayou Blue and Bayou Pointe-au-Chien roads. These areas are of limited extent.

**USES OF LAND:** The majority of the study unit is wetland. Trapping and commercial and sports fishing are excellent throughout the unit. Residential and commercial areas are small and clustered along Bayou Pointe-au-Chien near Grandbois. Most of the unit is part of Pointe-au-Chien Wildlife Management Area, composed of approximately 28,000 acres. The area is fairly unique in that extensive channelization of the fresh marsh and swamp area has not occurred.

**UNIQUE ECOLOGICAL FEATURES:** The area is part of the Pointe-au-Chien Wildlife Management Area (approximately 28,000 acres). Marshlands are ideal for production of waterfowl food (widgeon grass, southern najas, three-cornered grass) and waterfowl game species and fur-bearing animals are found throughout the unit.

**RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL:** The area is excellent for freshwater and brackish water fishing and for waterfowl hunting.

**HYDROLOGIC RESOURCES:** The area has little or no potable drinking water, except occasional lenses of freshwater floating on saltwater. Water table is at the surface for most of the area.

#### **HISTORIC/CULTURAL/ARCHEOLOGICAL:**

A. Historic Sites: None.

B. Cultural Sites: The community of Pointe-au-Chien is in both Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes. The actual name of the community has been disputed for some time. Most literature and maps and numerous inhabitants record the name as Pointe-au-Chien (Point-of-the Dogs). However, many people of the community claim oral tradition has taught them the name as Pointe-Aux-Chenes (Point-of-the Oaks).

The land surrounding the Pointe-au-Chien community has been under dispute for many years. While many residents live in Lafourche Parish, they depend upon Terrebonne Parish for services. The only roads into the area originate in Terrebonne. Other questions of ownership of the land have been raised in the past by members of the Houma Indian Tribe. Tribal members claim all of the land in the Pointe-au-Chien area, as well as most of the coastal areas from Terrebonne to Plaquemines.

C. Archeological Sites: LF 32 Known Prehistoric Indian found on Bayou Blue LF 31 Known Shell Midden on Bayou Blue

#### PROBLEMS:

1. Saltwater intrusion up Grand Bayou through Trenass T1 into freshwater causing land deterioration
2. General brackish marsh deterioration south of United Gas Pipeline Canal

#### GOALS

1. Reduce saltwater intrusion into this unit
2. Protect the fragile freshwater habitats within the EMU from degradation and/or destruction
3. Preserve the integrity of those wetland areas not yet extensively channelized in this EMU
4. Protect those areas set aside as wildlife area (Pointe-au-Chien Area)
5. Construct saltwater barriers across known channels causing saltwater intrusion
6. Impose mitigation condition upon dredge and fill permits so as to use spoil to create new marshland and/or retard saltwater intrusion in this unit

#### POLICIES FOR BAYOU POINTE-AU-CHIEN

Most of the Pointe-au-Chien EMU has been relatively free of channelization and marsh deterioration, i.e., the area is still very much intact except in the extreme southern portion. The Pointe-au-Chien Wildlife Management Area covers much of the unit. Since this area is utilized for wildlife management, is relatively intact and has a large fresh marsh buffer between the swamp and the brackish area, it is recommended that the area be maintained in the present condition as much as possible. To that end, the following specific policies shall apply to implement the goals and objectives and general policy for the management of this area.

**POLICY 1.** All General Policies for the Lafourche Coastal Zone shall apply in this EMU unless modified by specific EMU or sub-EMU policies stated in this EMU policy statement.

**POLICY 2.** Within the brackish marsh area indicated on the Pointe-au-Chien Land Cover Map permits for dredging and fill activities should require that any spoil be placed continuously on the side of the canal or boat slip, so as to retard saltwater intrusion.

**POLICY 3.** South of the canal labeled South Coast Gas Pipeline Canal on the Land Cover Map of the Pointe-au-Chien EMU, dredged materials should be spread so as to create new marsh sites whenever possible instead of merely spreading spoil on adjacent wetlands. This means placing spoil in eroding wetlands so as to create new sites for marsh regeneration.

POLICY 4. Any spoil dredged from South Coast Gas Pipeline Canal as indicated on the Land Cover Map should be placed on the northern bank to retard the spread of brackish marsh and more saline water into the fresher areas of the EMU

POLICY 5. Existing pipeline corridors and canals primarily the South Coast and United Gas Pipeline Canals should be used to the maximum extent practicable throughout the EMU, when conducting activities that would result in dredging and wetland destruction if this procedure is not followed.

POLICY 6. North of South Coast Gas Pipeline Canal dredged materials should be spread out so as to create minimal disturbance of the natural drainage and nutrient exchange.

POLICY 7. All canals dredged for any purpose should be plugged with earth or rip rap after abandonment to reduce the effects of saltwater intrusions. This especially applies to all canals running in a north/south direction and also any canals south of South Coast Gas Pipeline as per the Lafourche Coastal Zone General Policies 2 and 3.

POLICY-8. Within the boundary of the Pointe-au-Chien Wildlife management Area, any wetlands altered or destroyed should be required to be replaced by means of spoil placement and vegetation of this spoil as close to the disturbed site as possible and within the management area.

POLICY 9. Any additional reclamation activities in the swamp forest, freshwater or brackish marsh areas adjacent to the Pointe-au-Chien and Bayou Blue natural levee ridges should be discouraged due to poor soil conditions and propensity of the areas to flood.

POLICY 10. There shall be no illegal dumping in this EMU of any liquid or solid waste. Existing tank storage sites and well sites shall follow all applicable guidelines as specified by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources regarding the storing and disposal of wastes from mud pits, well construction, etc.

POLICY 11. Human habitation on the non-wetland portion of the Bayou Blue natural levee should not be discouraged provided all solid waste and sewerage requirements of the parish and state are met and pre-cautions against flooding required by the Parish Development Permit Officer for the Federal Flood Insurance Program are met.

#### STRUCTURAL MODIFICATION POLICIES

1. There is a saltwater intrusion problem north of the South Coast Gas Pipeline Canal along canal T1, (An old trenass that has widened due to erosion). Marsh deterioration die-back is progressing rapidly on both sides of this canal from Grand Bayou. It is recommended that an earthen plug be placed across this canal to halt the deterioration as per the Lafourche Coastal Zone General Policies 2 and 3. Any permits issued for dredge and fill activities nearby to this area should include as part of any mitigation requirement,

the placement of materials at the mouth of this trenass canal to retard the saltwater intrusion problem here.

Besides these guidelines, all coastal use guidelines as stated in the F.E.I.S. of the Louisiana Coastal Zone Management Program shall apply to this EMU

There EMU policies refer to a "use of state concern", the policies are intended only as recommendations to the state program managers and are not legally binding on the permit applicant or the state CZM program.

---